

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-23 and 25-27 are pending in the present Application. Claims 4, 10, 17 and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 have been amended to embrace cancelled subject matter. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Williams (U.S. Patent 5,977,964).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The outstanding Official Action has rejected Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Williams. The Office Action contends that Williams describes all of the Applicants' claimed features. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information retrieving apparatus for retrieving multimedia content from a plurality of multimedia content provided by a pre-determined information providing means, including:

... storing means for storing a usage history of a recording medium used for recording said multimedia content, said usage history includes a reproduction history of multimedia content, which is obtained by reproducing said multimedia content recorded in said recording medium; and

retrieving means for retrieving multimedia content from said plurality of multimedia content on the basis of said usage history, the history data including weighted values to differentiate between frequencies of reproduction of multimedia content of the recording medium,

wherein only header information indicating information of said retrieved multimedia content is provided to a display.

Williams describes a user monitored entertainment system which stores user profiles corresponding to user interaction. For example, as shown in Figure 1, the system (100)

includes a television (102), a video recorder (106), a DVD player (114), in addition to other entertainment devices.¹ The various entertainment devices are connected to a common input/output bus (108). A system controller (104) is provided to control each component of the entertainment system (100). The controller (104) determines which user of a plurality of users is currently using the system (100). In this way, the system (100) can be configured in accordance with a user profile stored in a profile database (100).² Based upon the content of a user profile, preferences such as preferred channels, volume and content preferences may be delivered to the user during the use of the system.³

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of the Applicants' advancements, an information retrieving apparatus retrieves multimedia content from a plurality of multimedia content by maintaining a usage history of a recording medium used for recording the multimedia content. Multimedia content is retrieved from an information provider from a plurality of contents of information on the basis of the usage history. The usage history includes a reproduction history of multimedia content which is obtained by reproducing the multimedia content recorded in the recording medium. The history data includes weighted values to differentiate between the frequencies of reproduction of multimedia content of the recording medium. Only header information indicating information of the retrieved multimedia content is provided to a display.

The Official Action cites the channel guide of Williams as describing the presentation of content in accordance with the reproduction history. However, Applicants note that this reproduction history is not a retrieval of information which corresponds to a usage history of the recording medium. Instead, the channel guide simply highlights preferences based upon a specific user profile. Likewise, the channel guide of Williams is not limited to the display of

¹ See Williams at column 3, lines 47-59.

² See Williams at Figures 2-4.

³ See Williams at column 5, line 52 to column 6, line 12.

header information alone with respect to this retrieved content as recited in the amended claims.

Although Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-23 and 25-27 are of differing statutory class and/or scope, it is respectfully submitted that the invention define by these claims also patentably define over Williams for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to amended Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-23 and 25-27 patentably defines over the asserted prior art.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-23 and 25-27, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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